



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 4, 2008

Principals,

A coalition of Idaho's leading industries is soliciting nominations for the ninth annual **GIANTS (Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science) Award** that will recognize teachers who integrate real life applications of science and technology in their classrooms. This is the seventh year that the program will include elementary teachers. As the educational leader of your school, who would know better which teachers are most effective at sharing their love of science? **One teacher or a team of teachers from an Idaho elementary school will be selected to receive the award, which includes a \$2000 cash prize, to be presented by the governor early in the spring of 2009.** Additionally, the school will receive a cash stipend of \$500 to be used to enhance and enrich science education in the GIANTS recipient's school.

Additionally, one teacher or a team of teachers from an Idaho elementary school will be selected to receive an Honorable Mention award. The teacher so recognized will receive a cash prize of \$500 and the nominating school will also receive \$100 to support science education. Applicants are being sought statewide. Please see the enclosed listing of winners from previous years.

The application process has been streamlined and you will need to submit only three items to complete the application. They are as follows:

1. A copy of the teacher's resume. In the case of a team nomination, each teacher's resume must be included: (A sample template for the resume is included with this letter).
 - ❖ Education background
 - ❖ Professional memberships
 - ❖ Student organizations sponsored
 - ❖ Special programs used in the classroom to enhance science learning.
 - ❖ Curricular, academic or other professional leadership roles.
1. A letter of support from you as the school's principal. This letter should include or address:
 - a. A statement of support for the completed application packet.
 - b. The school-wide or multi-grade level aspects of the program developed by the teacher or team, showing the connection between the material being taught in the classroom and its applications in the larger world of science and technology. Special attention will be given to teachers connecting with business and industry.

3. Two letters of support from the following:
 - a. One letter from a student or group of students, either currently in the teacher's class or who have been in the past, stating the impact of the nominated teacher or teacher team in fostering connections between the classroom and the real world by utilizing resources from business and technology.
 - b. One letter from a parent discussing the value and impact of the nominee's science program.

Should you have any questions as you prepare your school's application please feel free to contact me. **Please submit five copies** of your application materials arranged in the order listed above and send them to my office postmarked no later than **February 16, 2009**. We look forward to receiving your school's nomination for GIANTS and the opportunity to recognize the teachers who are making science education in Idaho real and exciting! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith
Science Coordinator
Idaho Department of Education
650 West State Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

Resume Model (organization, length and formatting are used for evaluation)

GIANTS is proudly sponsored by the Governor's Office, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Micron Technology, Washington Division of URS, Hewlett-Packard Company, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the Idaho Commerce and Labor's Office of Science and Technology

Name
School address
GIANTS Award 2009

1. Education background

- Bachelors
- Masters
- Years teaching
- Specialized advanced science courses
- Grades taught (secondary – also include individual courses taught)

2. Professional Memberships

- Professional Memberships
- Internships
- Civic Memberships

3. Student organizations

- Science or other club advisor
- Academic coach (Science Olympiad, Invention Convention, etc.)

4. Special programs used in the classroom to enhance science learning

***Greater Emphasis for award consideration**

- Guest speakers
- Field trips
- Science career awareness
- Special topic science lessons or research projects

5. Curriculum, academic, or professional leadership roles

- Idaho Science Teachers Association Board
- State Board of Education Standards Development Committees
- Curriculum development (school – State Department of Education)
- Presenter at local, state, or national conferences
- Publications

GIANTS is proudly sponsored by the Governor's Office, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Micron Technology, Washington Division of URS, Hewlett-Packard Company, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the Idaho Commerce and Labor's Office of Science and Technology